

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 5, 2007. Claims 55, 58-60, 63-65 and 68-70 are presented for examination, of which Claims 55, 60, and 65 are in independent form. Claims 55, 60 and 65 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 59 and 70 have been amended as to matters of form or to correct claim dependency; no change scope is intended or believed effected by these changes. Claims 56, 57, 61, 62, 66 and 67 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 55, 58-60, 63-65 and 68-70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 6,513,159 (*Dodson*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,721,879 (*Tanaka*).

Claim 55 is directed to an information processing apparatus in communication with one or more client apparatuses via a network, including determining means and transmission controlling means. The determining means determines a plurality of client apparatuses on which a driver is to be set up. The transmission controlling means controls operations to transmit to each of the plurality of determined client apparatuses, via the network, a set-up instruction to set up a driver for the client apparatus and a test printing instruction to have the client apparatus execute test printing to check if the driver set-up for the client apparatus has been completed. Identification information of the plurality of client apparatuses is printed in the test printing at a printer corresponding to the set up driver.

Among other notable features of the apparatus of Claim 55, is the transmitting

of both a driver set-up instruction and a test printing instruction from an information processing apparatus to a plurality of client apparatuses via a network, wherein identification information of the plurality of client apparatuses is printed in the test printing at a printer corresponding to the set up driver. By virtue of the structure recited in Claim 55, it is possible to check whether the driver set up has been completed for each client apparatus by inspecting a test printing sheet delivered by the printer corresponding to the set up driver, without the need to physically check the plurality of client apparatuses to confirm the driver set up status for each client apparatus.

Dodson relates to a distribution of driver programs in a network system. In particular, the *Dodson* system includes an automatic installation program that has a system evaluator, which evaluates the hardware configuration of a computer, and a driver evaluator, which determines which drivers are installed on the computer. The program assembles a stack from the hardware configuration, and compares the stack with a valid package matrix. Upon a match being found, the drivers in the stack are compared with those on the computer, and the program determines which drivers need to be installed on the computer, and which that are already there need to be updated.

Applicant submits, however, that nothing in *Dodson* would teach or suggest “transmission controlling means for controlling operations to transmit to each of the plurality of client apparatuses determined by said determining means a set-up instruction to set up a driver for that client apparatus and a test printing instruction to have the client apparatus execute test printing to check if the driver set-up for the client apparatus has been completed, via the network, wherein identification information of the plurality of client apparatuses is printed in the test printing at a printer corresponding to the set up driver,” as recited in Claim 55.

Tanaka relates to the execution of a test printing of an installed driver in a locally connected apparatus. In contrast, the apparatus of Claim 55 is directed to test printing in a network apparatus. Even if *Tanaka* is deemed to show all that is cited for, that does not supply what is missing from *Dodson* as a reference against Claim 55.

Applicant submits that nothing in *Dodson* or *Tanaka*, whether considered separately or in any permissible combination (if any), would teach or suggest the transmitting of both a driver set-up instruction and a test printing instruction from an information processing apparatus to a plurality of client apparatuses via a network wherein identification information of the plurality of client apparatuses is printed in the test printing at a printer corresponding to the set up driver.

Accordingly, Claim 55 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Dodson* or *Tanaka*, either separately or in any permissible combination (if any).

Independent Claims 60 and 65 are method and computer program product claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 55, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 55.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits

is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable continued examination of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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